

THE CZAR NICHOLAS.

We have read with much interest a lengthy and well written letter in the London Morning Chronicle, from Sir Charles Shaw, a military officer in the British service, upon the subject, which is now the most engrossing one of all others, of the Russian and Turkish armies, and the prospect which the Sultan has before him of maintaining his position against the Czar in the existing war. Although the views entertained by the writer of this letter are somewhat different from those often expressed by us, yet they are apparently, in some respects well founded, and deserving of attention.

We have no doubt that the greatness of Russia in regard to arms is more imputed than real. The military history of that power, when critically viewed, clearly indicates that such is the case. The Circassians, themselves barbarians, and few in number, have for twenty years defied the power of the Czar; the Poles of 1830, with raw troops, withstood his veterans, and were at last only subdued by the overwhelming forces of Paskewitch; the Turks in 1828 with new and undisciplined armies, were only conquered by treachery and purchases—the Governor of Varna being bribed by gold to surrender that fortress; the French in 1812 drove the Russians from their homes and firesides, which they were unable to defend until the ice-blast came to their aid, and swept half a million of Frenchmen into eternity, the victims, not of Russian vengeance, but of a Russian winter; and Massena, meeting the greatest general of Russia, Suwarow, in the Alps, repulsed and conquered him, and sent him home again, cured of his conceit and shorn of his laurels. From all these circumstances of history, Sir Charles is inclined to think that Turkey now need not fear the result.

Our noble letter writer has also as slight an opinion of the Czar himself as he entertains of his armies, and in support of this opinion entertains us with several anecdotes of his Majesty, curious enough to be told of one who claims, almost in direct words, as the head of the Greek Church, to be the Soldier and the Vicegerent of God, whose mission it is to break the power of the Mohammedans, and expel that race of infidels from Europe.

Every body, says Sir Charles, knows that the Czar Nicholas is in body a giant, possessing immense physical strength, of which he is extremely proud; and every body knows, also, that a vast portion of his time is devoted to reviewing and inspecting his armies. Perhaps every body is equally aware that Russian Generals and Princes—Russian Emperors even, sometimes, when engaged in this duty of military inspection, have a way, not deemed strange or undignified for great characters in that unhappy country, of caning and otherwise maltreating soldiers in the ranks who happen to displease them. Peter the Great, it will be remembered, used to beat his courtiers, kicking and cuffing the great lords in the palace. The Archduke Constantine (the rightful heir of Alexander, whom Nicholas, his younger brother, by some hocus pocus, choused out of the succession) seeing an old soldier at a review with his neck stock carelessly put on, rushed at him in a rage and bent him over the head; when, being informed the poor veteran wore his stock thus in consequence of a wound he had received in the neck which disabled him from wearing it in any other way, the high and mighty brute immediately relented, embraced the soldier, asked his pardon, and gave him a commission as an officer.

The Emperor Nicholas, the magnificent and the pious, was guilty of a similar, or worse, act of brutality, which was without any redeeming trait of subsequent regret or generosity. He found, one day, a soldier on parade, whose whisker offended him. He dashed at the soldier, seized him by the whisker, and never let go his hold until he tore the whisker from the cheek, with the flesh attached to it; and he actually boasted of this feat, as a manifestation of his strict attention to discipline.

MISSISSIPPI.—There will be no whig from Mississippi in either branch of the present Congress. Of the result in the State the Jackson Mississippian says:

"The result proves, as we have before remarked, that the sterling democracy of this State will not permit themselves to be divided when the pretensions of individuals merely are involved. Some higher and nobler end must be in view to draw them asunder. In the late election every means were used to compass their defeat. The cry of 'Union' was invoked to the aid of our unscrupulous adversaries. The administration of Mr. Pierce was assailed in the most wanton and reckless manner. The charge of free-soilism was rung out in mingled notes of horror, indignation, and alarm. The head of Bronson was held up before the eyes of the voters, and the wrongs of his confederates were depicted in glowing colors. But all to no purpose. The intelligence and patriotism of the people saved the State. The tide of victory rose among the hills of Tippah, and rolled along to the shores of the Gulf."

A SENATOR'S OPINION OF N. YORK POLITICS.—A Washington letter to the New York Express says:

Several Senators are here. Among them, Messrs. Douglas, Weller and Gwin. "What is your opinion, Mr. Gwin, of New York politics," said a gentleman to Mr. G. a day or two since. "Are you Soft or Hard? Are you upon the side of the Nationals or Anti-Nationals?" The reply is, in spirit, a copy of a good many other answers to very similar questions rather pointedly and perhaps impudently put now-a-days—"My opinion," said the prudent and sagacious Senator, "is one which has been carefully matured, deliberately expressed, and one which I am not afraid to utter. In regard to it I have no concealments nor disguises of any sort." The gentleman pricked up his ears to hear something very direct, pointed and emphatic. "It is," continued the Senator, "that there must be a Railroad to the Pacific, and that the Shanghai line of Steamers should be established."

N. Y. MONEY MATTERS.—On call the supply of money is abundant at 7 per cent., but the arrival of drafts against three millions of gold, has made a much greater activity, and some of the banks are lending less freely. First class paper goes at 9 to 12 per cent.

The entries of California gold at the Custom House, during the month, has been \$6,063,230. [N. Y. Tribune, 1st.]

The fellow who "carried out a project" was obliged to bring it back again.

MASSACRE OF CAPT. GUNNISON AND PARTY BY THE INDIANS.—This startling news of the death of this accomplished officer reached this city on Sunday morning last—and was a most painful surprise to our citizens. He so lately went from us full of health and buoyant hope that we can hardly realize that he has met such an untimely fate. The source from whence this information is derived, and the particulars given, leave us no room to doubt that the sad news is too true. As an officer he was brave and accomplished; his appointment to the position which he held at the time of his death, and in the discharge of the duties of which, he fell, shows the estimation in which he was held at Washington—as a citizen he was amiable in deportment, generous in all his impulses, and was beloved by all who knew him—as a husband and parent he was always indulgent, kind and affectionate. His death at this time is a public loss which will be deeply deplored. He also leaves an amiable wife and three small children to mourn his loss. Here are all the particulars which have reached us at the present writing—they come by telegraph: [G. R. Enquirer, St. Louis, Nov. 30.]

The Salt Lake mail has arrived at Independence, and brings intelligence of the massacre of Capt. Gunnison and his exploring party. An express reached Gov. Young on the 31st October, from Capt. Morris, giving an account of the massacre by the Indians on Levee river. The killed were Capt. Gunnison and Mr. Kern, of the Topographical Engineers, Mr. Porter, a guide, two others, and three privates of company A, mounted riflemen. The following are the particulars:

Capt. Gunnison and twelve of his party had separated from the main body, and while at breakfast, a band of Indians, intending to destroy a Mormon village near at hand, came upon them, fired with rifles, and then used bows and arrows. Shots were returned by the Gunnison party, but they were overpowered, and only four escaped. Gunnison had twenty-six arrows in his body, and when found one of his hands was off. The notes of the survey, which had been nearly completed, besides instruments and animals, were taken.

Gov. Young sent aid to Capt. Morris to release him from his critical position in the midst of the Indians, and endeavored to regain the lost property. The party intended soon to go into winter quarters. A party of Cheyennes surrounded the mail and demanded nearly all the provisions, which were given them.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD.—The New York Journal of Commerce furnishes the following particulars relative to the Panama Railroad, derived from a forthcoming report of the directors:

The whole length of the road between the two oceans is 94 miles; of this, a fraction over 28 miles has been in operation since July 1852.—Eight miles more, or thirty-one from Aspinwall, will be in operation by January 1st, leaving eighteen miles to be completed. The latter section has already been commenced at both ends, and the iron for the whole is on the ground. From the Obispo, the place to which the cars will soon be running, the road runs along the valley of the river, crossing it twice, after which it crosses the summit ridge between the two oceans. The highest grade on the Atlantic slope is 91 feet per mile, and on the Pacific 70 feet per mile—the total rise being 250 feet above the level of high tide at Panama.

The heaviest work will be at the summit, where there is a cutting of twenty-four feet in the greatest depth, and one thousand three hundred feet long. The estimated cost in completing the road, with repairs, &c., on that already constructed, is less than fifteen thousand dollars. In addition to rights of way for the road, the company own the island of Mazanilla, on which the city of Aspinwall is situated, comprising an area of six hundred and fifty acres, on which three hundred houses have already been erected, yielding an annual ground rent of \$15,000. The company also own over 100,000 acres of wild lands along the line of the road, and half of three islands in the Bay of Panama. If no unforeseen obstacle be encountered, the road will be finished from ocean to ocean, by next fall, or at the farthest, in all of next year. Meanwhile, the portion finished, is doing a splendid business, constantly increasing.

CAN CALIFORNIA PRODUCE HER BREADSTUFFS?—California flour, when honestly made of California wheat, without admixture with the condemned article from abroad, will compare favorably with the best brands of the east. The time is not far distant when our State will be able to produce all that our population requires. Our soil is wonderfully prolific. Our farmers are every year increasing their crops of grain, while splendid mills of ample capacity are springing up all over the State. A quarter sack of flour, made from white wheat grown by Mr. Appleton, near San Jose, whose crop this year amounted to 5,000 bushels, has been manufactured by the Santa Clara steam mill, and deposited at the agricultural fair as a sample of pure domestic article. Its quality is unsurpassed. Along with it has been deposited a sample of bread made from it by Druffie & Co., of the Empire Bakery, who certify that they have used this flour for some time and consider it superior to either Haxall or Gallego. It makes better bread and more of the barrel. [San Francisco Herald.]

MARINE.—The schooner Petrel which left port Monday night for Buffalo, returned yesterday afternoon on account of head winds and heavy sea.

The schooner Sovereign of the Seas, has gone to pieces at Skilligalee. Her sails, running rigging, anchors, chains, &c., and a small portion of her cargo was saved and taken to Milwaukee.

The schooner Congress is ashore at Point Betsie, opposite South Manitou, a total loss.—She was owned at Buffalo. She had a cargo of apples and railroad iron for Milwaukee, insured in the Merchants Mutual and Commercial Insurance companies of that city.

The schooner Racine, is reported ashore near Two Rivers. [Chi. Dem. Press, 7th inst.]

SOLD.—Capt. Edward Kelly yesterday sold the schooner Arrow at private sale for \$3,500. She is one year old, 80 tons burthen, and was purchased by Benj. Smith, of Grand Haven, Mich. and will continue in the lumber trade. [Chi. Trib.]

There is a mustache mania at present in England. Mechanics and others who are employed in the open air, seems to be very generally discarding the razor.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 14, 1853.

Russia and Turkey.

War continues to rage in the East. Numerous battles have been fought, but up to our latest advices no important results had taken place. Accounts are so conflicting that it is impossible to arrive at any very satisfactory conclusions. The previous successes of the Turks, however, are confirmed, and more confidence now exists than at first in the ability of the Ottoman Empire to maintain its integrity.

The force under Omer Pasha had re-crossed the Danube from all points except Kalefat which had been strongly fortified. The Russians were marching upon this post and it was expected that a desperate fight would there take place.

Austria and Prussia have decided to remain neutral. The course that England will take is yet a secret, but France is evidently preparing to co-operate with the Sultan.

Both the belligerent parties are now thoroughly aroused and there is no hope for an immediate adjustment of difficulties through diplomatic agency. A serious and protracted war is to all appearances inevitable.

CONGRESS.—An account of the first day's work of the session has reached us. In the Senate notice was given, among other bills, of several making donations of public land for railroad purposes, and one for the establishment of a line of mail steamers from San Francisco to Shanghai by way of the Sandwich Islands.—Resolutions were submitted touching the subject of mortality on emigrant ships, and also the matter of the Sandwich Islands.

Contrary to general expectation the House was organized with little delay. LYNN BOYD, of Ky., was chosen Speaker, and Col. FORNEY, of Pa., Clerk.

BOYD received 143 votes, all others 35. FORNEY received 121, all others 79. Mr. BOYD is a thorough democrat and a warm supporter of the Administration. The present session has opened in a way that augurs well for the country. Many important questions will come up for action, and will, we trust, be met in such a manner as to command the approbation of the nation.

DETROIT MARKET.—On the 6th inst., flour sold at \$5.87; wheat \$1.25 in the street; corn 60c.; dressed hogs \$5.00. But little was done the day following. The arrival of the Humbolt bringing intelligence of a falling off in the Liverpool market of the demand for breadstuffs was announced, and prices had a downward tendency.

FILIBUSTERING MOVEMENT.—Accounts have been received of the successful invasion of Lower California, by two hundred armed men from San Francisco, who had taken possession of the town of La Paz, put the commanding officer in prison, and declared the country independent. Several expeditions of a warlike character have been organizing of late at San Francisco, for the purpose, as is supposed, of attempting the conquest of Lower California and Sonora. It is impossible to predict the result of the recent movement, but it seems not improbable that it may prove to be permanently successful.

At the city of Mexico great excitement grew out of the reception of the news, and it was tho't that Santa Ana would take advantage of the circumstance to declare himself Emperor. Unless present indications are deceptive important events will shortly transpire in Mexico, and further intelligence from that country will be looked for with anxiety.

LUMBER MARKET.—From the Chicago Democratic Press we gather the following facts relative to the lumber trade, which will be of interest to many of our readers, and which give promise of a continuance of the present remunerative prices. The total receipts of lumber at Chicago, from the opening of navigation to Nov. 30th, were 123,773,727 feet; shingles 58,319,750; lath 26,030,500. Notwithstanding these heavy receipts there has been but little accumulation, and the yards are more lightly stocked than has heretofore been the case at the close of navigation. On the 7th inst., prices were as follows:

LUMBER—1st clear, \$25 a 28—2d do. \$20.00 a \$22.—flooring, undressed, \$23 for clear, and \$18 for common—clear siding, \$16—common \$14 a 13—fencing, \$13 a 15—common boards, \$14 a 15—culls, \$10 a 11.

SHINGLES.—The range is from \$3.00 to 5.00 per m. Good ship sell readily at \$3.50 a 3.75.

LATH.—\$4 a 4.50.
CEDAR POSTS.—White Split, \$10 per 100—yellow \$12 a \$14 per 100.

CHOLERA.—This scourge which has lately pursued its dreadful course through Europe has again appeared in this country. A telegraphic despatch from New Orleans, of Nov. 29th, states that during the week previous there had been 128 deaths from cholera in that city. The packet ship New World, recently lost 75 passengers from the same disease, while on her passage to New York. Other vessels have suffered quite as severely. Things indicate a spread of the pestilence throughout our land during the coming year.

THE RESULT IN NEW YORK.—The official canvass of votes cast at the recent New York election has been completed. The result shows the average whig vote to have been 163,202; "hard" 95,684; "soft" 96,776. The whig ticket was in a minority of 43,949 votes.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Mr. SMITH, we learn, is doing a large and constantly increasing business at Mill Point. This week we give a long list of new advertisements which will enable our readers to form some idea of the extent of his ability to administer to their numerous wants during the winter months. The "Cheap Variety Store," recently greatly enlarged, has come to be very widely known throughout the county, and is now receiving such an extensive patronage as enables the proprietor to furnish customers at very low rates. Mr. SMITH understands the true secret of doing business. He advertises in the Times.

THE MESSAGE.—We received the President's Message too late to give it an attentive perusal before going to press. A hasty glance at the contents, however, leads us to believe that it is an able, high-toned paper, and one that will give general satisfaction to the American people.

The "special messenger" system it seems did not work well in all sections, as both our Detroit and Chicago exchanges first received the Message over the lines. This accounts for the unexpected delay that has attended its circulation in some portions of the North-West. We have been disappointed in procuring an extra supply for distribution among our subscribers, but we shall publish a correct copy in our next week's issue.

THE ERIE WAR.—Our latest news from Erie is substantially as follows: About 11 o'clock, on the 17th inst., it was announced that 400 men, under the company's employ, had commenced changing the track of the Erie and North-East Railroad. In half an hour most of the citizens assembled at the railroad and under direction of the mayor and chief of police, removed the track and bridges of the road from the streets of the city. The break thus made is about half a mile in length. The work was done in accordance with the city ordinances and without the violation of any law. It occupied about two hours, was conducted orderly, and when it was completed those who had been engaged therein returned quietly to their homes.

MAIL CAR BURNED.—From our latest Chicago papers we learn that the mail and baggage car, of the M. S. R., on Tuesday of last week, took fire shortly after the train had passed Ainsworth, going westward. Nearly the whole contents of the car were burned. The mails lost were destined to Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Iowa City, Burlington, and other western places.

NEW PAPER.—The first number of the Detroit Daily Enquirer is to appear during the present month, and will be under the editorial charge of R. HOSMER, Esq. The Enquirer is to be neutral in politics—a reflex of popular opinion, and a chronicler of the development and resources of the State.

For the Grand River Times.

MR. EDITOR:—The season has arrived when, usually, a call is made for all interested to assemble and unite in the organization of an association we term a Lyceum. I hope and trust a similar call will be made the present winter. It is well known that, heretofore, but few, very few, have participated, actively, in the exercises of the society. Not because we have not among us many who are fully competent to wield an argument on almost any subject—not because there are not many that appreciate a discussion. Then why is it? Mere diffidence, pride, &c. To most of us the present season is looked for with a great share of satisfaction, notwithstanding we are in a measure shut out from the world. Almost this whole community are directly and indirectly connected with the shipment of the articles of trade, or connected with lumbering establishments, and are, therefore, necessarily pressed with business during the navigable months to a much greater extent than communities in general. Their business calls for action by night as well as by day, and as the tired laborer looks anxiously for the going down of the sun, so we look forward to the time when an ice bound coast will relieve us from our labor and speak rest from toil, quietness and composure from perplexity. It is, therefore, not strange that this season is hailed with smiling faces and happy hearts. It gives an opportunity for the cultivation of the mind by perusing such books as are calculated to strengthen and expand that which alone makes the man. Now, as we are about entering upon the season of our happiness and improvement, can we not gather a much stronger force to take hold of the Lyceum and make it both, for ourselves and those who may honor us with their presence as hearers, profitable and instructive. There are sufficient, and those too that would acquit themselves with credit, to impart useful information to all, if they would but cast aside a little bashfulness that blinds them and take hold of this salutary handle of confidence.

We are sorry to say to you, gentlemen of the Times, hitherto, we have you to class with such, but trust it is the last regret of the kind that can truthfully be uttered. We know your time is occupied in winter, as in summer, but hope you, with others, will give a new impulse to this locomotive of knowledge.

BETTER AND BETTER.—Under this caption, the Milwaukee News says that "the official returns from twenty-eight counties give Barstow a majority of 7,222 over Holton, and 4,173 over Holton and Baird. This is an increase over the majority for Pierce and King. There will probably be a majority of between 8,000 and 9,000 on Governor, and of 5,000 over all the odds and ends, comprised in the opposition. Well done for the Badger State."

A STRANGE COMBINATION.—The Boston correspondent of the New York Evening Post undertakes to enumerate the causes of the late defeat of the new Constitution in Massachusetts. After enumerating the rum vote, the Orthodox and the Unitarians, the Infidels and the Catholics, the large cities and the small cities, &c., he proceeds as follows:

Abbott Lawrence, the millionaire, and ragged Simon, the town pauper; Father Brownson, the Catholic, and Nehemiah Twang, the Puritan; John G. Palfrey, the representative of Harvard College, and Peleg Jenkins, who is opposed to common schools and thinks Jackson is still President; Alonzo Stiff, from Beacon street, and Sam the bully, from the Black Sea; Narcissus Yardstick, the counter-jumper, and Jonathan Harrowtooth, the farmer, in the back settlements; Charles F. Adams, the Abolitionist, and Caleb Cushing, the crusher of abolitionists; George S. Hillard, with his Cologne bottle, and Moses Mudlark, skipper of the scow Beasey; Hudson, who fastens all his audience to their seats (asleep), and Lord, who drives them all away (disgusted); Standstill, the conservative, and Venture, the radical; Biff and Black George; tag, rag, and bobtail—

"Some in rags,
Some in tags,
And some in velvet gowns."

all united to vote down the new Constitution.

A HEORINE.—The Sacramento Union publishes the following interesting incident:

Mr. Cooper, wife and infant, reside on a bulk above, and in near proximity to the 1st street ferry. The other day the babe escaped a moment from the presence of its mother, and crawling to the brink of the vessel's deck, plunged into the river. The maternal ear caught the sound of the splash, and without pausing for a moment to calculate upon chances, Mrs. Cooper rushed to the spot from which the child was precipitated, and leaped overboard after it. When she arose from the plunge to the surface of the water, her babe was securely clasped in her arms. The vessel being but an arm's length removed, she laid hold of it, and clambering up the side, was again safely on deck with her inestimable treasure, before those who were spectators had time to recover from their amazement and lend assistance. Heroism like this, is worthy of a Roman mother. Let the record of it be made wherever the public press has power to blazon incomparable achievements.

NEW YORK, NOV. 29.

ARRIVAL OF MITCHELL.—The excitement, on the arrival of the Prometheus, to catch a glimpse of John Mitchell, was great. The steamer was surrounded with small boats, and her deck was completely packed with people. Salutes were fired by several Irish military companies, and enthusiastic cheers were given by the crowd.—Mr. Meagher and Col. Doherty were among the earliest to greet Mr. Mitchell, who was conveyed to a carriage, and immediately proceeded to the residence of his mother, in Brooklyn, where he will quietly remain until to-morrow, and then he will receive the congratulations of his friends. At the ferry and other points, the Irish Societies surrounded M. Mitchell.

A NEW COMET.—Another comet was discovered on Friday evening, the 25th ult., by Mr. ROBERT VAN ARSDALE, at Newark, in the constellation of Cassiopeia, which is nearly in the zenith; its approximate declination and right ascension at 5 o'clock 50 minutes mean time was, north dec. 60 deg. 12 min.; right ascension 2 hours 6 minutes. It came to the meridian at 9 o'clock 48 minutes, decl. 60 deg. Right ascension 2 hours 7 minutes. It is of a small, round, bright appearance, with an exceedingly rapid motion in a direction apparently opposite to that of the sun. After only a short observation it changed its place very perceptibly. No record of this heavenly visitor, says the Advertiser is known to have been previously made. It is not apparent to the naked eye.

FRESH OUTBREAK OF THE YELLOW FEVER.—The yellow fever has broken out afresh, with greater violence than ever, at Newport, Fla., and the citizens were flying from the place at last accounts.

At Lake Providence, La., ten or twelve new cases had occurred, up to the 12th inst., four of which were fatal. Among the latter was an old physician, who had nearly recovered from a previous attack, when he took a relapse and died.

At Wilkinson, Miss., seven new cases had occurred at the latest accounts.

At Shreveport, La., the fever had also re-appeared. Among its victims was the Hon. Wm. R. Douglas, member of the Legislature.

Some of the papers recommend the camel as a suitable animal for the sandy plains on the overland route to San Francisco. Never. The steam-horse is the beast required, on a road built without government aid, by a grand national subscription. Camels may do for the Arabs, but not for the Yankee nation.

No wonder Ireland is becoming depopulated. Fifteen millions of dollars were sent from this country to Ireland, in 1851, for the purpose of emigration. Most of it was sent in sums under twenty-five dollars, and by persons who had to earn it by manual labor.

The gold mines lately discovered in Franklin county, Me., it is said, promise well. The original discoverer contemplates mining with 50 hands the coming season. A boarding house is being erected in the vicinity, and the builder has engaged to board the workmen. It is rumored that \$800 of gold have been taken from these mines the past season.

SOMETHING OF A JOKE.—We were told last evening, that in the neighborhood of the Pontiac Railroad Depot, a whiskey barrel was to be seen, raised upon a pole, and draped in the sombre habiliments of mourning. That's right—perfectly right. We are in favor of showing due respect to the departed,—notwithstanding they be our enemies; and, though it may be deemed a little hypocritical to put on the semblance of grief where none is really felt, it is well enough for some people to mourn for one who has so long been a companion, though not a friend. King Alcohol is dead—so let us be magnanimous, and bury with him the memory of his wrongs—but be sure that he does not revive. [Detroit Democrat.]

An exchange says that the Hon. Henry A. Wise has recently married. To any dear bachelor friend still "halting between two opinions," we say "go and do like Wise."